

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the first paragraph after the title with the following amended paragraph:

—This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/268,599 filed March 15, 1999 entitled “Sterilizer Including Air Purging System and Pressure Actuated Door Seal” (now abandoned), the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.—